

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 IGA-02 AID-20 MBFR-03 EB-11 TRSE-00 MC-02

ACDA-19 IO-12 RSR-01 /173 W
----- 067534

R 301616 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1380

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3694

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, KU, IZ

SUBJECT: BEIRUT PRESS ON IRAQ- KUWAIT DISPUTE

1. IRAQI- KUWAITI BORDER CLASH RECEIVED EXTENSIVE TREATMENT IN ANTI- IRAQI WEEKLY AL HAWADITH (MAR 29). LEAD ARTICLE HEADLINED " IRAQ AFTER KUWAIT ISLANDS FOR SOVIET SHIPS" ALLEGED IRAQ PREVIOUSLY APPROACHED GOK WITH DEMAND FOR CARTE BLANCHE ACCESS TO BAY OF KUWAIT PORT AND PIPELINE FACILITIES FOR IRAQ AND " THIRD PARTY" (SOVS). SENIOR KUWAIT OFFICIAL QUOTED AS TELLING GOI KUWAITI FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO ARAB STATES FOR SELF- DEFENSE OR TO AID ARAB CAUSE, BUT NOT FOR " THIRD PARTIES".

2. KUWAITI FORMIN SABAH AL AHMAD TOLD MAGAZINE IRAQI TROOPS ACTUALLY BEGAN OCCUPATION KUWAIT TERRITORY APR 1969. HE SAID IRAQ ATTACK LINKED WITH SOUTH YEMENI MILITARY
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ACTIVITY , AND THREATENED WITHDRAWAL OF KUWAIT AID FROM ARAB CAUSE TO BETTER DEFEND HOMELAND. ADDED THAT GOK PREVIOUSLY HAD AGREED TO SUPPLY EGYPT TWO SQUADRONS " LIGHTNING" AIRCRAFT, WITH FIRST DELIVERY SCHEDULED MARCH 21.

3. SEPARATE HAWADITH ARTICLE STATES THAT TOTAL KUWAIT CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER ARAB STATES SINCE 1964 HAS BEEN OVER ONE BILLION KUWAITI DINARS (ABOUT 3.9 MILLION DOLLARS). ARTICLE CITES 275 MILLION KD BETWEEN 1964 AND 1967 KHARTOUM SUMMIT, ESPECIALLY TO JORDAN RIVER PROJECT AND JOINT ARAB COMMAND; 49 MILLION KD LOANS; SOME 115 MILLION KD VIA KUWAITI DEVELOPMENT FUND TO ELEVEN ARAB STATES. ARTICLE SAYS FIGURES CITED PLUS KUWAITI CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONFRONTATION STATES SINCE KHARTOUM SUMMIT IN 1967 AND KUWAIT'S OWN ARMS PURCHASES TOTALS 1150 MILLION KD'S.

4. INDEPENDENT DAILY AN NAHAR (MAR 30) REPORTED RECENT LARGE SHIPMENTS OF WESTERN ARMS TO KUWAIT, WITH MORE ON ORDER. JORDAN AND IRAN HAVE REPORTEDLY OFFERED TROOPS, AND 15,000 TO 20,000 SAUDI TROOPS ALLEGEDLY ALREADY ON KUWAIT SOIL. ARTICLE REPORTS KUWAIT PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON " MEDIATION" OF YASIR ' ARAFAT WHO PRESENTLY IN KUWAIT.
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, IZ, KU
To: AMMAN
BAGHDAD
JIDDA
KUWAIT
MOSCOW
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC

TEHRAN
TEL AVIV

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